

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 4, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed April 4, 2005, claims 1-3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 58-052146 (JP '146).

Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over JP '146 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,527,029 (Ryser).

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over JP '146.

Independent claim 1 recites "a folding-blade shaft having two ends, said folding-blade shaft being rotatably mounted at each of said two ends in said folding drum, said folding-blade shaft having at least two folding-blade carriers for holding folding blades".

The Office Action refers to reference character 95 in JP '146 as disclosing the recited folding blade shaft. It is respectfully submitted that reference character 95 in JP '146 does not indicate a folding blade shaft.

Applicant has obtained an English language abstract for JP '146, which is submitted concurrently herewith in an Information Disclosure Statement. The English language abstract clearly discloses that a folding blade 46 is arranged on a cylinder 8 and that reference character 99 indicates a pawl which is used to hold a folded paper. Since the shaft 95 is connected to the pawl 99 (see Fig. 4 of JP '146), the shaft 95 can not be considered to be a folding blade shaft recited in independent claim 1. Rather it is a shaft connected to a pawl 99 which is used to selectively hold the sheet being folded. The English language abstract further discloses that the folding blade 46 of

JP '146 is arranged on fixture bodies 43, 44 which are bolted in place by a bolt 50. Accordingly, JP '146 fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a folding-blade shaft having two ends, said folding-blade shaft being rotatably mounted at each of said two ends in said folding drum, said folding-blade shaft having at least two folding-blade carriers for holding folding blades", as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Ryser fails to disclose what JP '146 lacks. Ryser discloses a labeling station for articles. Since Ryser discloses a labeling station, Ryser fails to teach or suggest a folding blade or folding blade shaft as recited in independent claim 1.

In view of the above remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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